





WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM



Come on, Buddy, Quit being A BAG-of-BONES Weakling like I was

IN 10 MINUTES OF FUN A DAY

YOU Can do ALL I did!

I gained **25 Terrific LBS.** of **HANDSOME POWER-PACKED MUSCLES** all over!

I improved my **HE-MAN LOOKS 1000%**

I won **NEW STRENGTH**

for money-making work!
for **WINNING** at all SPORTS!

I won **NEW POPULARITY**

Won **NEW FRIENDS, BOYS & GIRLS**
NEW CHANCES for BUSINESS SUCCESS

He Pal!
Win \$100
as I just did!



"I'm **PROUD** to be seen with **Jim NOW!** Every-body admires his build," says Nellie. "Jim can lift the front of a 2700 lb. car. He amazes his friends!"

You'll be A Real **ATHLETE** in ALL SPORTS Soon after YOU mail Coupon.

Jim is a **WINNER** in ALL SPORTS NOW. YOU will be, too, soon.

How did I do **ALL** This? I mailed the Coupon and got These **5** PICTURE PACKED HE MAN COURSES

Which **YOU** can NOW get **FREE**

BEFORE \$1 PRICE GOES BACK Millions Sold for \$1

GET ALL 5 **FREE**

1



HOW TO MOLD A **MIGHTY CHEST**
By GEORGE F. JOWETT



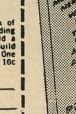
HOW TO MOLD A **MIGHTY ARM**
By GEORGE F. JOWETT



HOW TO MOLD A **MIGHTY BACK**
By GEORGE F. JOWETT



HOW TO MOLD A **MIGHTY GRIP**
By GEORGE F. JOWETT



HOW TO MOLD A **MIGHTY LEGS**
By GEORGE F. JOWETT

2

3

4

5

YOU CAN WIN a BIG 15 SILVER CUP as I just did! with YOUR NAME engraved on it!



JIM NORMAN AFTER

He Mailed Coupon Below is Cleveland

BEFORE

He Mailed Coupon

90 lb. Skeleton

He says,

I gained

70 lbs.

of mighty muscle



COME ON, PAL, NOW YOU give me 10 PLEASANT MINUTES A DAY IN YOUR OWN HOME like Jim did and I'll give YOU A NEW HE-MAN BODY for your OLD SKELETON FRAME

NO! I don't care how skinny or flabby you are I'll make you OVER by the SAME method I turned myself from a wreck to the strongest of the strong. Why can't I do for you what I did for MANY THOUSANDS of skinny fellows like You?

Develop YOUR 520 MUSCLES Gain Pounds, INCHES FAST!

YES! You'll see INCHES of MIGHTY MUSCLE added to your ARMS and CHEST. Your BACK and SHOULDERS broadened. From head to heels you'll gain SIZE, POWER, SPEED. You'll be A WINNER in EVERYTHING you tackle.

"Congratulations, John! At last you mailed the coupon as EVERY MAN should. Soon You'll be big and strong as I am."

says Jim Norman to John Luckus



LAST CHANCE - ALL FREE COUPON

1. FIVE COURSES 2. MUSCLE METER 3. Photo Book of STRONG MEN

Dep't. CH-61

Tell Me How To WIN \$100, etc.

"Jowett Courses are the World for Building All-Round HE-MAN!" - 4 F Kelley Physical Director

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Dear George: Please mail me the FREE Jowett's Photo Book of Strong Men and a Muscle Meter, plus all 5 HE-MAN Building Courses: 1. How to Build a Mighty Chest, 2. How to Build a Mighty Arm, 3. How to Build a Mighty Grip, 4. How to Build a Mighty Back, 5. How to Build Mighty Legs. Now all in One Volume: "How to become a Mighty HE-MAN." ENCLOSED FIND 10c FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING (no C.O.D.'s)

NAME _____ AGE _____

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SAVES you YEARS and DOLLARS!!!

Mail Coupon in Time for FREE offer and PRIZES!

ROMANTIC SECRETS

Volume 1, Number 6

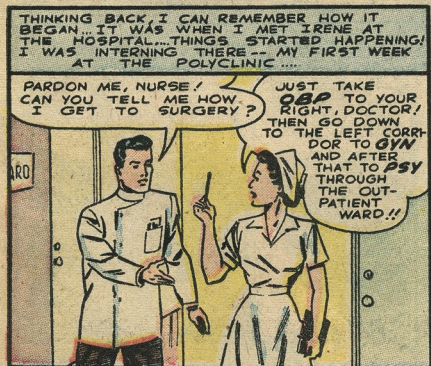
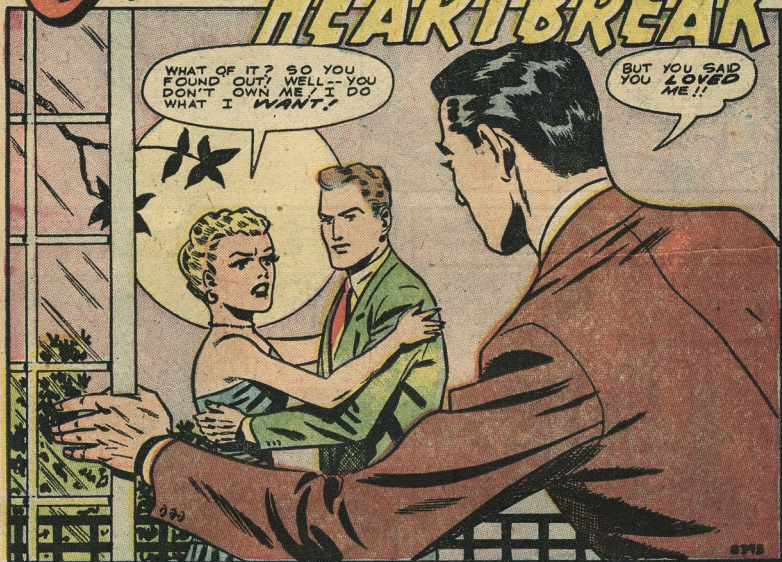
February, 1956

Published bimonthly by Charlton Comics Group. Executive offices and office of publication, Charlton Building, Derby, Conn. Second Class mailing privileges authorized at the Post Office at Derby, Conn. Price per copy 10c. Subscription 12 issues \$1.20. Copyright 1955 by Charlton Comics Group. All Fargo, Executive Editor. Printed in U.S.A.

ROMANTIC SECRETS

THIS PROBLEM ISN'T NEW... BUT WHEN IT HAPPENS TO YOU, IT BECOMES YOUR ENTIRE LIFE! THEN WHAT WAS TO BE MY ANSWER TO THIS HOPELESS SOLUTION? EITHER WAY SEEMED A.....

Choice to HEARTBREAK



ROMANTIC SECRETS

SHE WAS A PRETTY THING! BUT I'D SEEN PRETTIER BUT WORKING WITH HER DAY IN AND DAY OUT SOON GOT ME TO WONDERING...

COULD BE SHE'S A KNOCK-OUT IN REGULAR CLOTHES! MAYBE SHE'LL GO OUT WITH ME IF I ASK HER FOR A DATE LATER!



SO I ASKED HER FOR A DATE

I'D LOVE TO, AT EIGHT IN FRONT OF THE PARK?

FINE! I'LL BE WAITING!



I MET IRENE AT EIGHT PROMPTLY. THAT'S THE WAY SHE WAS-- PROMPT, EFFICIENT, AND HUMAN AND I SOON FOUND HER VERY CHARMING

AND THAT'S THE STORY OF MY LIFE. JIM BAKER! SMALL TOWN GIRL IN BIG CITY HOSPITAL!

UMM-- SOUNDS GREAT! AND, IT IS GREAT BECAUSE YOU'VE MADE GOOD AT THE HOSPITAL! THE SUPERVISOR THINKS YOU'RE TOPS! AND I KNOW YOU ARE!



YES I'M SITTING ON TOP OF THE WORLD! I SUPPOSE I SHOULD BE HAPPY!

CERTAINLY! IT ISN'T OFTEN A GIRL CAN GO AS FAR AS YOU HAVE! YOU'VE GOT A GREAT FUTURE!



IRENE LAUGHED AT THAT. WHY I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THEN. BUT AS THE DAYS WENT BY-- WORK PILED UP, AND I SOON GOT A GOOD IDEA WHY

HOLY SMOKE! I WON'T GET THROUGH WITH THIS TILL TOMORROW MORNING AND IRENE IS STILL ON EXTRA DUTY!



BUT NO MATTER HOW TIRED I WAS, IRENE WORKED **HARDER**... SOON I GOT TO THINKING ABOUT HER, AND SOON I WAS DRIVING HER HOME AFTER WORK

YOU SHOULD BE GETTING SLEEP YOURSELF, JIM. YOU'LL NEED IT!

ONLY AFTER I SEE YOU SAFELY IN BED, YOUNG LADY! YOU'RE QUITE A GAL!



ROMANTIC SECRETS



AND SUDDENLY, WE WERE IN EACH OTHER'S ARMS, OUR HEARTS RACING WITH OUR HAPPY THOUGHTS...

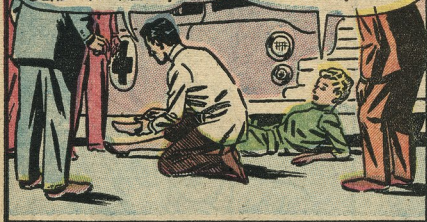


ROMANTIC SECRETS

ORDINARILY THIS SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE END OF MY STORY... THE YOUNG COUPLE LIVING HAPPILY EVER AFTER... BUT IT WASN'T... IRENE AND I WERE VERY HAPPY IN THE BEGINNING... THINGS LOOKED PROMISING... UNTIL THE AFTERNOON I MET PAULINE.....

DOES IT HURT WHEN I BEND IT HERE?

YES! IT'S BROKEN! ISN'T IT?



YOU'RE RIGHT! AND YOU'RE ALSO VERY BRAVE TO BE SAYING WE'LL TAKE YOU TO THE HOSPITAL RIGHT AWAY!

BUT PROMISE ME YOU'LL MEND ME PERSONALLY!



I DIDN'T HAVE TO PROMISE... PAULINE WAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL I EVER MET... AND ALSO THE MOST POSSESSIVE... STAYING AWAY FROM HER WAS IMPOSSIBLE! SHE TOOK A ROOM AT THE HOSPITAL AND.....

ALL RIGHT! LET'S SAY I WANT YOU AROUND... PERMANENTLY!

PAULINE PLEASE!



WHY THE STERN ACT, DOCTOR BAKER?

BECAUSE YOU CAN'T STAY HERE INDEFINITELY, PAULINE...

YOU'RE FOOLING ABOUT YOUR FOOT! IT'S MENDED PERFECTLY!



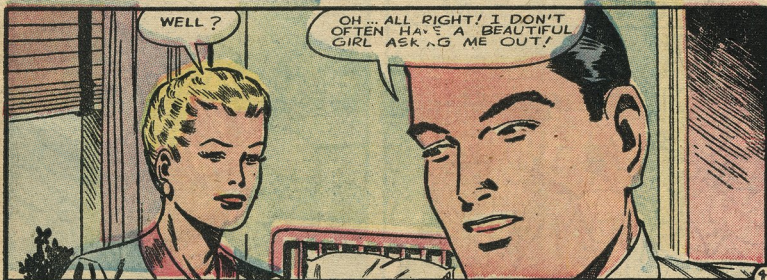
THEN IT'S EITHER YOU TAKE ME OUT, OR I STAY HERE FOR GOOD!

IT ISN'T THAT I WANT TO GET RID OF YOU, PAULINE! BUT OTHER PATIENTS NEED YOUR ROOM!

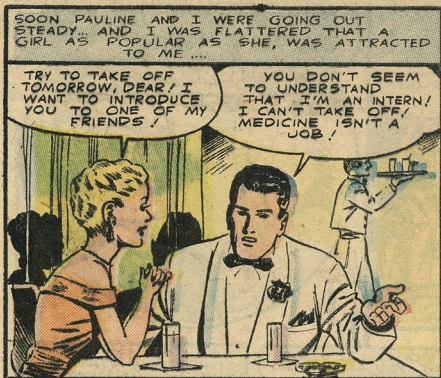


WELL?

OH... ALL RIGHT! I DON'T OFTEN HAVE A BEAUTIFUL GIRL ASKING ME OUT!



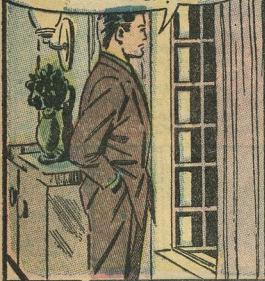
ROMANTIC SECRETS



ROMANTIC SECRETS

I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I STOOD THERE... THE MUSIC SEEMED FAR AWAY... AND I WAS REMOVED FROM THESE REVELERS LIKE THE MAN IN THE MOON...

IRENE IS WORKING LATE AT THE HOSPITAL AGAIN! SHE ALWAYS WORKS HARD, SHE'S ALWAYS TRYING TO HELP!



SUDDENLY--STANDING THERE-- I KNEW WHAT I HAD TO DO... I STARTED ACROSS THE ROOM OBLIVIOUS TO ANYONE THERE...

HEY! COME ON... HAVE A DRINK!

NO THANKS!



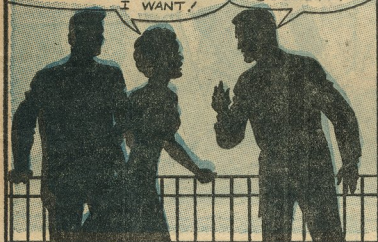
I STEPPED TOWARDS THE BALCONY... I HAD SEEN PAULINE WALK THERE WITH BILL... I WAS EXPECTING THE SITUATION TO BE HECTIC... I DIDN'T EXPECT---

PAULINE!



DON'T LOOK SO OUTRAGED, JIM! YOU DON'T OWN ME, AND THESE PAST FEW DAYS YOU HAVE BEEN UN-BEARABLE! I DO WHAT I WANT!

BELIEVE ME, PAULINE-- YOU COULDN'T HAVE MADE ME HAPPIER! GOODBYE!



WAIT, JIM!--I--

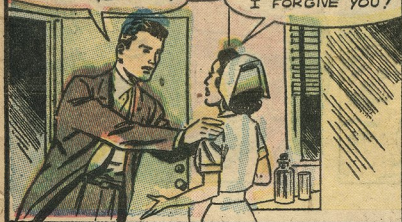
FORGET IT! IT HAD TO HAPPEN SOONER OR LATER! I WAS JUST TOO STUPID TO REALIZE IT! AND NOW FOR SOME UN-FINISHED BUSINESS!



I KNEW IRENE WOULD BE ALONE AT THE HOSPITAL... I HAD PLENTY TO MAKE UP WITH HER... I LOST NO TIME IN PROVING IT....

CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME, SWEETHEART? I WAS A FOOL, I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THAT BEAUTY REALLY BELONGS UNDER THE SKIN!

JIM BAKER-- YOU'RE TALKING IN PUZZLES--- BUT WHATEVER IT IS... IF YOU STILL WANT ME-- I FORGIVE YOU!



THAT'S ALL I WANT TO HEAR, HONEY! THINK YOU CAN BE HAPPY WITH A HARD WORKING INTERN?

WHY DON'T YOU MARRY ME AND SEE?



THE END

THE

Awakening

B-BUT, SHEILA--
TODAY IS OUR
WEDDING DAY!

NO--NO! IT
CAN'T BE! I
CAN'T GO
THROUGH WITH
IT. I LOVE
ROD!...SOB...
I KNOW
THAT NOW!

HE WAS EVERYTHING IN SHEILA'S LIFE...
THE DREAMS SHE DREAMED, THE AIR SHE
BREATHED, AND WHEN HE HELD HER IN
HIS ARMS AND AVOUED THE LOVE SHE'D
WAITED FOR SO TORMENTINGLY LONG...
SHE WAS DETERMINED TO CONFIRM THAT
LOVE IN IMMEDIATE MARRIAGE AT NO
MATTER WHAT THE COST.



I HAD BEEN
INTENT UPON
THE DULLNESS
OF MY LIFE,
THE FEW MEN
I HAD EVER
KNOWN WHO
WERE INTER-
ESTING, WHEN
I CHANCED TO
FIND THE
BOOK ON THE
SEAT OF THE
BUS...



SOMEONE'S LEFT A BOOK BEHIND.
MAYBE IT HAS THE NAME OF THE
OWNER INSIDE AND I CAN
MAIL IT.



YES--HERE IT IS! ROD BELLOWES, 34 LANE
ROAD. WHY--THAT'S ONLY A SHORT
DISTANCE FROM MY PLACE. I MIGHT
AS WELL TAKE IT TO HIM!



ROMANTIC SECRETS

ON MY WAY HOME FROM THE OFFICE THAT EVENING, I STOPPED AT THE ADDRESS AND PRESSED THE DOOR-BELL OVER THE NAME BELLONS. A TALL, SHY-LOOKING YOUNG MAN WITH A PRE-OCCUPIED AIR OPENED THE DOOR.



YES?

I BELIEVE THIS BOOK BELONGS TO YOU. I FOUND IT ON THE BUS THIS MORNING.



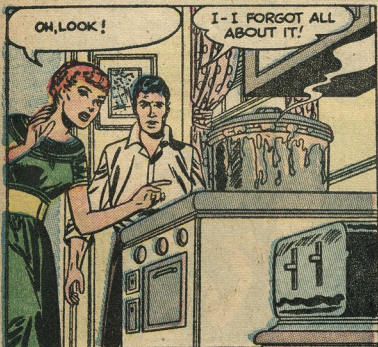
OH--! THANKS A LOT! I-I MISSED IT IN CLASS THIS MORNING. I'M GLAD I WON'T HAVE TO REPLACE IT. ER-- WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME IN FOR A MOMENT?

NO, THANKS, I'M ON MY WAY TO--! SAY-- SOMETHING SMELLS LIKE IT'S BURNING.



OH, LOOK!

I-I FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT!



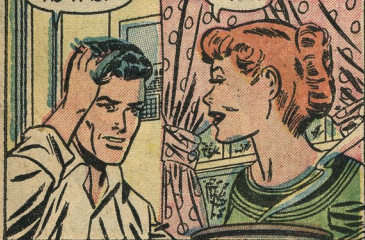
THERE GOES YOUR DINNER! IT'S ALMOST BURNT.

I GUESS I NEVER WILL LEARN HOW TO COOK! AUNT TILLIE JUST STERED OUT TO THE STORE AND WILL BE RIGHT BACK!



THAT HAPPENS SO OFTEN WITH ME, I'VE PRACTICALLY COME TO ACCEPT THE ODOR AS PART OF MY COOKING. WELL--I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO EAT IT AS IT IS.

ALL YOU MEN ARE SO HELPLESS AROUND A KITCHEN. I'LL GET THIS IN SOME SORT OF EDIBLE SHAPE FOR YOU.



SHORTLY AFTERWARDS I FOUND MYSELF PLEASURABLY WATCHING ROD EAT WHAT I HAD PREPARED. HIS GRATEFUL SMILE!

THIS IS WONDERFUL. I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO EAT MY BURNT OFFERINGS AGAIN AFTER THIS.

THERE'S STILL ANOTHER PORTION LEFT.



ROMANTIC SECRETS



STRANGELY ENOUGH, I FOUND MYSELF RELUCTANT TO MOVE OUT OF THE COZY KITCHEN, ROD'S NEARNESS AND BOYISH ENTHUSIASM HAD MADE A GAME OF THE DISHWASHING CHORE AND I FOUND MYSELF REGARDING HIM WITH MORE THAN CASUAL INTEREST.



AS WE SILENTLY WALKED THROUGH THE QUIET PARK, WE BOTH EXCHANGED MANY THOUGHTS USUALLY RESERVED FOR OLD FRIENDS.

RIDGEWAY IS A PRETTY SMALL TOWN AND THERE AREN'T TOO MANY YOUNG MEN THERE. I GUESS YOU CAN SAY I CAME TO THE CITY TO FIND SOMEONE-- NO, I DON'T. THE ONE! YOU MUST THINK I'M VERY BOLD TO TELL YOU THESE THINGS!

NO, I DON'T. IN FACT, I ADMIRE YOUR CANDOR.



I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN MARRIAGE-- AND--AND A FAMILY. THAT'S WHAT I BELIEVE AND I'M NOT ASHAMED TO SAY IT.

GOOD FOR YOU. IT'S WONDERFUL TO MEET SOMEONE LIKE YOU, SHEILA. YOU'RE SO COMPLETELY, REFRESHINGLY HONEST.

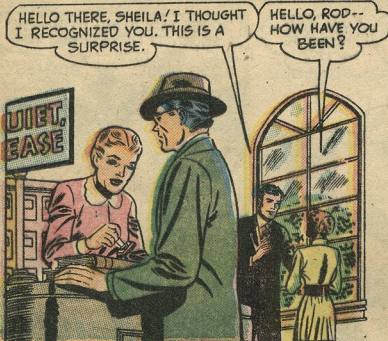


I WAITED HOPEFULLY FOR ROD TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT MEETING AGAIN, BUT HE JUST SMILED AND STARTED AWAY.



ROMANTIC SECRETS

IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, THOUGHTS OF ROD KEPT FLITTING THROUGH MY MIND, AND THE YEARNING TO SEE HIM AGAIN WOULD NOT BE STILLED. THEN I REMEMBERED THAT HE HAD MENTIONED SPENDING A LOT OF TIME AT THE LIBRARY.

ROMANTIC SECRETS



PRESENTLY, IN THE AUDITORIUM, ROD'S NEARNESS AND THE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC STARTED TREMORS OF EXCITEMENT WITHIN ME. BEFORE I WAS EVEN AWARE OF IT, OUR HANDS WERE MEETING!



HE'S THE ONE--I KNOW IT! I'VE NEVER FELT THIS WAY ABOUT ANYBODY BEFORE.

AND THEN IT WAS OVER. THE MAGIC SPELL THE MUSIC HAD WOVEN WAS SHATTERED AND I RELUCTANTLY STARTED FOR HOME. I KEPT WONDERING IF THIS TIME HE WOULD ASK TO SEE ME AGAIN.



WELL--HERE WE ARE AGAIN!

IT SEEMS LIKE THAT WAS THE SHORTEST WALK I EVER TOOK.



SHEILA, THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO TELL YOU.

YES, ROD--WHAT IS IT?



YOU'RE FUN BEING WITH--AND I ENJOYED THIS EVENING VERY MUCH. AND NOW--GOOD NIGHT!

BUT--BUT, ROD!



TEARS OF FRUSTRATION STUNG MY EYES AS I MANAGED TO CHOKE OUT THE WORDS OF PARTING. THEN HE TURNED BACK TO ME WITH SUDDEN RESOLUTION.

SHEILA, I-I DO WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF I HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK YOU. I HAVEN'T ANY MONEY TO TAKE YOU ANYWHERE. YOU SEE, I'M GOING TO SCHOOL UNDER THE G.I. BILL, STUDYING TO BE A CHEMIST.

SO THAT'S IT?



OH, ROD! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME BEFORE? I'M SO GLAD I KNOW NOW. AS IF MONEY MATTERED--!

WELL--THE GOING IS PRETTY TOUGH. WHAT LITTLE MONEY THERE IS LEFT HAS TO BE SENT HOME TO HELP THE FOLKS.

Now! The Amazing Facts about

BALDNESS

...AND WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT



The following facts are brought to the attention of the public because of a widespread belief that nothing can be done about hair loss. This belief has no basis in medical fact. Worse, it has condemned many men and women to needless baldness by their neglect to treat certain accepted causes of hair loss.

There are six principal types of hair loss, or alopecia, as it is known in medical terms:

1. Alopecia from diseases of the scalp
2. Alopecia from other diseases or from an improper functioning of the body
3. Alopecia of the aged (senile baldness)
4. Alopecia areata (loss of hair in patches)
5. Alopecia of the young (premature baldness)
6. Alopecia at birth (congenital baldness)

Senile, premature and congenital alopecia cannot be helped by anything now known to modern science. Alopecia from improper functioning of the body requires the advice and treatment of your family physician.

BUT MANY MEDICAL AUTHORITIES NOW BELIEVE A SPECIFIC SCALP DISEASE IS THE MOST COMMON CAUSE OF HAIR LOSS.

This disease is called Seborrhea and can be broadly classified into two clinical forms with the following symptoms:

1. DRY SEBORRHEA: The hair is dry, lifeless, and without gloss. A dry flaky dandruff is usually present with accompanying itching. Hair loss is considerable and increases with the progress of this disease.

2. OILY SEBORRHEA: The hair and scalp are oily and greasy. The hair is slightly sticky to the touch and has a tendency to mat together. Dandruff takes the form of head scales. Scalp is usually itchy. Hair loss is severe with baldness as the end result.

Many doctors agree that to **NEGLECT** these symptoms of **DRY and OILY SEBORRHEA** is to **INVITE BALDNESS**.

Seborrhea is believed to be caused by three germ organisms — staphylococcus albus, pityrosporum ovale, and acnes bacillus.

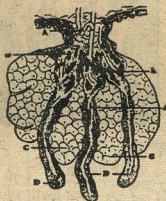
These germs attack the sebaceous gland causing an abnormal working of this fat gland. The hair follicle, completely surrounded by the enlarged diseased sebaceous gland, then begins to atrophy. The hair produced becomes smaller and smaller until the hair follicle dies. Baldness is the inevitable result. (See illustration.)

But seborrhea can be controlled, particularly in its early stages. The three germ organisms believed to cause seborrhea, can and should be eliminated before they destroy your normal hair growth.

A post-war development, Comate Medicinal Formula kills these three germ organisms on contact. Proof of Comate's germ-killing properties has been demonstrated in laboratory tests recently conducted by one of the leading testing laboratories in America. (Complete report on file and copies are available on request.)

When used as directed, Comate Medicinal Formula controls seborrhea—stimulates the flow of blood to the scalp—helps stop scalp itch and burn—improves the appearance of your hair and scalp—helps STOP HAIR LOSS due to seborrhea. Your hair looks more attractive and alive.

You may safely follow the example of thousands who first were skeptical, then curious, and finally decided to avail themselves of Comate Medicinal Formula.



**DESTRUCTION OF HAIR FOLLICLES
Caused By Seborrhea**

A — Dead hairs; B — Hair-destroying bacteria; C — Hypertrophied sebaceous glands; D — Atrophic follicles.

A Few of the Many Grateful Expressions By Users of Comate Medicinal Formula

"My hair was coming out for years and I tried everything. Nothing stopped it until I tried Comate. Now my hair has stopped coming out. It looks so much thicker. My friends have noticed my hair and they all say it looks so much better."
—Mrs. R.E.J., Stevenson, Ala.

"Your hair formula got rid of my dandruff; my head does not itch any more. I think it is the best of all the formulas I have used."
—E.E., Hamilton, Ohio.

"Your formula is everything you claim it to be and the first 10 days trial cured me of a very bad case of dry seborrhea."
—J.E.M., Long Beach, Calif.

"I do want to say that just within five days I have obtained a great improvement in my hair. I do want to thank you and the Comate Laboratories for producing such a wonderful and amazing formula."
—M.M., Johnstown, Pa.

"I have found almost instant relief. My itching has stopped with one application."
—J.N., Stockton, Calif.

"My hair looks thicker, not falling out like it used to. Will not be without Comate in the house."
—R.W., Lonsdale, R. I.

"I haven't had any trouble with dandruff since I started using Comate."
—L.W.W., Galveston, Tex.

"This formula is everything if not more than you say it is. I am very happy with what it's doing for my hair."
—T.J., Las Cruces, New Mexico.

"I find it stops the itch and retards the hair fall. I am thankful for the help it has given me in regard to the terrible itching."
—R.B.L., Philadelphia, Pa.

"The bottle of Comate I got from you has done my hair so much good. My hair has been coming out and breaking off for about 21 years. It has improved so much."
—Mrs. J.E., Lisbon, Ga.

Today these benefits are available to you just as they were to these sincere men and women when they first read about Comate. If your hair is thinning, over-dry or over-oily—if you are troubled with dandruff with increasing hair loss—you may well be guided by the laboratory tests and the experience of thousands of grateful men and women.

Remember, if your hair loss is due to Seborrhea, Comate CAN and MUST help you. If it is due to causes beyond the reach of Comate Medicinal Formula, you have nothing to lose because our **GUARANTY POLICY** assures the return of your money unless delighted. So, why delay when that delay may cause irreparable damage to your hair and scalp. Just mail the coupon below.

© 1936 Comate Laboratories Inc., 18 West 45 Street, N.Y. 36, N.Y.

COMATE LABORATORIES INC., DEPT. 847
18 West 45 Street, N.Y. 36, N.Y.

Please rush my bottle (30-days supply) of Comate Hair and Scalp Formula in plain wrapper. I must be completely satisfied or you guarantee refund of my money upon return of bottle and unused portion.

☐ Enclosed find \$5.00. Send postpaid. (Check, cash, money order.)
☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman \$5.00 plus postal charges.

Name

Address

City Zone State

AFO, FPO, Canada and Foreign—No C.O.D.'s

ROMANTIC SECRETS

AND THEN, ALL AT ONCE, I WAS IN HIS ARMS. LOVE HAD COME TO ME AT LAST-- A LOVE EVERY GIRL DREAMS ABOUT



WE'VE ONLY JUST MET, REALLY-- BUT I KNOW THAT I LOVE YOU, SHEILA.

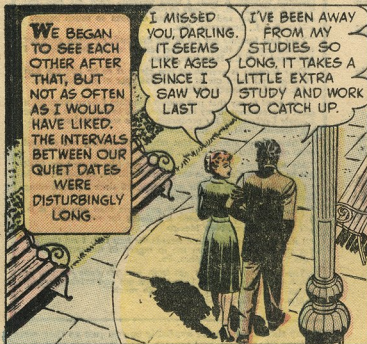
HOLD ME TIGHT, MY DARLING! NEVER LET ME GO!



WE BEGAN TO SEE EACH OTHER AFTER THAT, BUT NOT AS OFTEN AS I WOULD HAVE LIKED. THE INTERVALS BETWEEN OUR QUIET DATES WERE DISTURBINGLY LONG.

I MISSED YOU, DARLING. IT SEEMS LIKE AGES SINCE I SAW YOU LAST

I'VE BEEN AWAY FROM MY STUDIES SO LONG, IT TAKES A LITTLE EXTRA STUDY AND WORK TO CATCH UP.



I GUESS I OUGHT TO BE SATISFIED WITH WHAT LITTLE TIME YOU CAN MANAGE TO SEE ME.

IF IT WAS POSSIBLE, DEAR, I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU EVERY MINUTE OF EVERY DAY!



DURING THE WEEKS THAT PASSED I BEGAN TO DAYDREAM ABOUT MARRIAGE WITH ROD. BEFORE I KNEW IT, THE COOL, CRISP AUTUMN DAYS GAVE WAY TO THE GUSTS OF WINTER, AND THE CHRISTMAS SEASON HAD COME ONCE MORE.



LOOK, ROD, EVERYBODY SEEMS TO BE CARRYING CHRISTMAS PRESENTS. COME HERE, I WANT TO SHOW YOU A BEAUTIFUL DISPLAY THEY HAVE IN THAT WINDOW THERE.

I NEVER KNEW WHY PEOPLE GOT THE KICK OUT OF WINDOW SHOPPING THAT THEY DO-- NOW I KNOW! IT MUST BE THE COMPANY THEY'RE IN!



ISN'T THAT ADORABLE! MAYBE THIS TIME NEXT YEAR THAT'LL BE YOU AND ME--IN OUR OWN PLACE.

I'M AFRAID NOT, SHEILA. I WISH THAT IT COULD BE SO, THOUGH!



MAYBE I NEVER MENTIONED IT, DEAR-- BUT IT'LL BE **THREE** YEARS BEFORE I'M THROUGH WITH SCHOOL. UNTIL THEN, WE CAN'T EVEN THINK OF MARRIAGE--!

THREE YEARS!



ROMANTIC SECRETS

FILLED WITH DISMAY AT THE PROSPECT OF THE LONG WAIT BEFORE MY DREAMS COULD BECOME A REALITY, I SOBBINGLY BROKE AWAY FROM ROD.



WAIT, SHEILA--! I TOLD YOU ABOUT SCHOOL AND THE NECESSITY TO CATCH UP! DON'T YOU SEE THAT I--!

...SOB... LET ME ALONE!

THREE YEARS BEFORE HE CAN THINK OF MARRIAGE. WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO ALL THAT TIME? SIT AROUND AND TWIDDLE MY THUMBS? SOB... HIM AND HIS PRECIOUS SCHOOL!



THERE WAS NO WORD FROM ROD FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS AND MY LONELINESS WAS ACCENTED BY THE HILARITY OF NEW YEAR'S EVE. ALL THE GAIETY SEEMED LIKE A HOLLOW MOCKERY AS I DWELLED UPON MY OWN MISERABLE STATE.



SOMEONE'S AT THE DOOR!

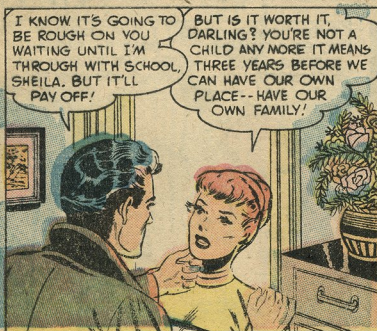


ROD!

I--I HAD TO COME--IF ONLY TO WISH YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

OH, ROD--MY DARLING ROD! HAPPY, HAPPY NEW YEAR! I MISSED YOU SO.

SWEET SHEILA! THEN EVERYTHING IS ALL RIGHT AGAIN, ISN'T IT?



I KNOW IT'S GOING TO BE ROUGH ON YOU WAITING UNTIL I'M THROUGH WITH SCHOOL, SHEILA. BUT IT'LL PAY OFF!

BUT IS IT WORTH IT, DARLING? YOU'RE NOT A CHILD ANY MORE IT MEANS THREE YEARS BEFORE WE CAN HAVE OUR OWN PLACE--HAVE OUR OWN FAMILY!



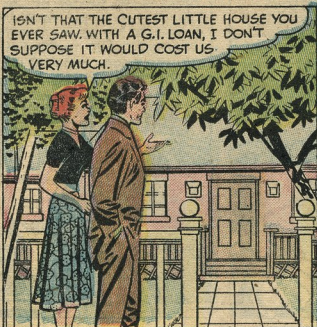
I WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO IF I WEREN'T A CHEMIST. IT'S SOMETHING I'VE ALWAYS PLANNED ON, LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT IT ANY MORE NOW!

ALL RIGHT, DEAR-- BUT WE'LL USHER IN THE NEW YEAR WITH A KISS OF RECONCILIATION!

ROMANTIC SECRETS

BUT I DIDN'T HAVE ANY INTENTION OF WAITING THREE YEARS. AS THE MONTHS WENT BY, I KEPT PAINTING A BEAUTIFUL WORD PICTURE OF THE BLISS THAT AWAITED US WHEN WE WERE MARRIED. LITTLE BY LITTLE I SENSED THAT I WAS WEARING DOWN HIS RESISTANCE.

ISN'T THAT THE CUTEST LITTLE HOUSE YOU EVER SAW. WITH A G.I. LOAN, I DON'T SUPPOSE IT WOULD COST US VERY MUCH.



LOOK--THAT'S JUST WHAT I WOULD DO. FENCE IN THE BACK SO THE CHILDREN COULD PLAY WHILE I DID MY HOUSE CHORES. SOME PEOPLE ARE SO LUCKY.

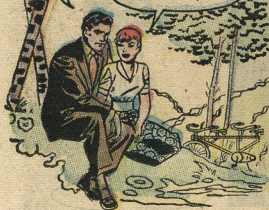
WE'LL HAVE OURS SOME DAY, TOO, SHEILA.



EVENTUALLY I EVEN RESORTED TO A DATE WITH BILL, AN OLD ADMIRER, IN ORDER TO FAN THE FLAMES OF JEALOUSY IN ROD.

DID YOU HAVE A GOOD TIME LAST NIGHT WITH...WITH BILL?

IT WAS ALL RIGHT. BILL IS A VERY SWEET BOY. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NICER WITH YOU. I--I THINK HE WANTS TO MARRY ME, ROD.



I--I HAVE NO HOLD ON YOU, SHEILA. NO RIGHT TO ASK YOU TO WAIT. IF YOU THINK BILL IS THE GUY--!

THOSE THINGS HE TALKS ABOUT --A HOME AND FAMILY. IT'S A TEMPTATION!



OH, I'M SO CONFUSED. I DO WANT YOU TO BE WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE--AND YET--I FEEL THAT LIFE IS PASSING US BY.

GOSH, SHEILA, I WANT TO MAKE YOU HAPPY. THAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN MY MIND. I CAN'T SEE YOU TORTURING YOURSELF THIS WAY!



THEN, AT LONG LAST, ROD RESIGNED HIMSELF TO SEEING THINGS MY WAY.

I'VE LEFT SCHOOL, DARLING. I GOT MYSELF A JOB AS AN ASSISTANT LAB TECHNICIAN. AS SOON AS WE HAVE A MONTH'S SALARY IN THE BANK, WE'LL GET MARRIED.

OH, ROD-ROD!



EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE WONDERFUL, DARLING--JUST WONDERFUL! KISS ME!

I JUST COULDN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT OF THAT FELLOW, BILL, TAKING YOU AWAY FROM ME!

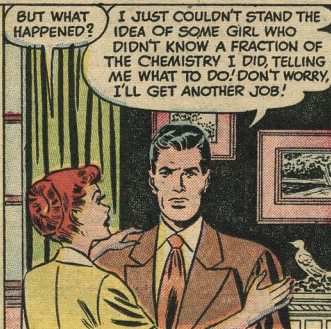


ROMANTIC SECRETS

BUT EVERYTHING WASN'T JUST WONDERFUL! ALTHOUGH I WAS ALMOST DELIRIOUS WITH HAPPINESS AT THE PROSPECT OF EARLY MARRIAGE, ROD SEEMED TO CHANGE. HE BECAME TENSE AND TROUBLED--AND HE LOST HIS JOB A WEEK AFTER HE STARTED.

BUT WHAT HAPPENED?

I JUST COULDN'T STAND THE IDEA OF SOME GIRL WHO DIDN'T KNOW A FRACTION OF THE CHEMISTRY I DID, TELLING ME WHAT TO DO! DON'T WORRY, I'LL GET ANOTHER JOB!



YOU'LL FIND SOMETHING ELSE, ROD--I'M SURE. AND IT WILL TURN OUT FINE.

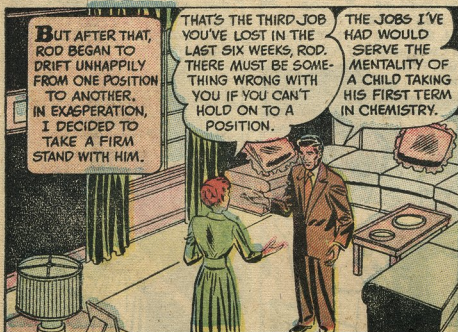
I-I SURE HOPE SO, DEAR.



BUT AFTER THAT, ROD BEGAN TO DRIFT UNHAPPILY FROM ONE POSITION TO ANOTHER. IN EXASPERATION, I DECIDED TO TAKE A FIRM STAND WITH HIM.

THAT'S THE THIRD JOB YOU'VE LOST IN THE LAST SIX WEEKS, ROD. THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOU IF YOU CAN'T HOLD ON TO A POSITION.

THE JOBS I'VE HAD WOULD SERVE THE MENTALITY OF A CHILD TAKING HIS FIRST TERM IN CHEMISTRY.



IF YOU LOVED ME ENOUGH YOU'D MAKE THE BEST OF IT! HOW LONG AM I SUPPOSED TO WAIT BEFORE YOU FIND SOMETHING THAT SUITS YOUR ROYAL NIBS?

I BEGIN TO SEE QUALITIES IN YOU I NEVER REALIZED YOU POSSESSED.



YOU'RE NOT THE ONE TO TALK OF LOVE. ALL YOU THINK OF IS YOURSELF. MAKING A GOOD, SECURE LIFE FOR OURSELVES DOESN'T EVEN SEEM TO ENTER INTO YOUR THOUGHTS OF MARRIAGE!

HOW DARE YOU TALK TO ME LIKE THAT?



WELL--I'M NOT GETTING ANY OLD JOB. I'VE DECIDED TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL AND FINISH WHAT I STARTED!

GO AHEAD--BUT DON'T THINK I'M GOING TO BE AROUND WAITING FOR YOU UNTIL YOU GET GOOD AND READY TO MARRY ME. IT'S SCHOOL--OR ME!



I GUESS YOU MADE THE DECISION FOR BOTH OF US. GOODBYE!

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE THAT WANTS TO MARRY ME! I WAS A FOOL TO THROW BILL OVER FOR YOU. GET OUT!

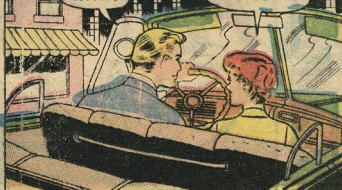


ROMANTIC SECRETS

IT WAS OVER, I TOLD MYSELF, AND I WAS DETERMINED TO FORGET HIM. I BEGAN TO SEE BILL, BUT I FOUND MYSELF CONSTANTLY BELABORED WITH THOUGHTS OF ROD.

DON'T YOU SEE THAT FELLOW, ROD ANY MORE? THE ONE YOU USED TO GO OUT WITH?

NO, BILL--! THAT'S A CLOSED CHAPTER IN MY LIFE, AND PLEASE DON'T MENTION HIM TO ME.



THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO BE SURE OF! SHEILA-- LET ME START A NEW CHAPTER IN YOUR LIFE, THEN, YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU. WILL--WILL YOU MARRY ME?

I--I DON'T KNOW, BILL. GIVE ME A LITTLE TIME! A LITTLE MORE TIME--!



AND THE DAY CAME WHEN I SAID YES TO BILL--ALMOST IN DEFIANCE TO THE LONGING FOR ROD--FOR HIS KISSES--FOR HIS ARMS ABOUT ME. MY WEDDING DAY STILL FOUND ME RATIONALIZING THE CHOICE I MADE.

I MUST STOP THINKING ABOUT ROD. IT'S BILL THAT'S GOING TO BE MY HUSBAND. I DON'T HAVE TO WAIT ANY MORE!

WELL--HERE WE ARE, DEAR! JUST A FEW MORE MINUTES, AND WE'LL BE MR. AND MRS.



IF YOU LOVED ME-- YOU'D HAVE WAITED, SHEILA. BUT YOU WERE ONLY INTENT ON GETTING MARRIED.

...SOB... OH, ROD--! I DO LOVE YOU! I DO!



SHEILA! WHAT'S THE MATTER?

LET ME GO! I--I CAN'T GO THROUGH WITH IT, BILL!--SOB--I CAN'T!

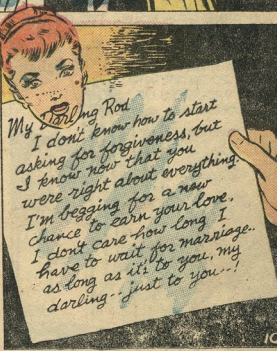


OH, BILL--I'M SO SORRY! BUT IT WOULDN'T WORK! I LOVE ROD--I ALWAYS WILL. IT WOULDN'T BE FAIR TO YOU!

I'VE BEEN AFRAID OF THIS ALL ALONG, SHEILA! SOMEHOW I FELT YOU WOULDN'T REALLY GO THROUGH WITH IT!



GRATEFUL FOR THE REPRIEVE I HAD BEEN GIVEN AGAINST MAKING A DREADFUL MISTAKE, I SOBBINGLY DASHED HOME. THERE, I WROTE A LETTER TO ROD--POURING OUT MY HEART AND SOUL.



My Darling Rod
I don't know how to start asking for forgiveness, but I know now that you were right about everything. I'm begging for a new chance to earn your love. I don't care how long I have to wait for marriage--as long as it's to you, my darling--just to you...

THE GOOD, GOOD LIFE



IT was a glorious morning — the loveliest morning Annette remembered having seen in all her twenty-one years. Every fiber of her responded to the beauty of the sunrise and when she whirled from the hospital's balcony window, her face was aglow with lilted happiness. "It's a magnificent day, Mr. Greenstreet," she cried, a song in her young voice. As she went towards the bed, the crisp, starched skirt of her nurse's uniform swished in the morning stillness. Gently, she touched his eyes with her sun-warmed fingers. "Do you feel it, Mr. Greenstreet? That's the sun, the glorious sun, and life is good."

He smiled, and it was a pleasant smile. "All the heebie-jeebies gone? Splendid." He stirred on the bed. His searching hand found hers and gave it a little squeeze. "That's the ticket. There is no such thing as an insolvable problem in the world. If you lose your sight, as I have lost mine, you gain a sense of acute hearing. If you fight with your boy friend, as you have fought with Joe, you gain the opportunity to discover how much you would miss him if he were really gone for good. And if . . ." he halted, a suspicion crossing his lean, dark face. "Are you *laughing*, Miss Hannegan? Are you laughing at me? Why, the very idea! Do you realize who I am? I am, although young, a very distinguished professor of history. People flock to my classes. My name occasionally appears in the papers. And frequently I am offered good money for just a little talk. And you have the temerity to laugh at me when I am telling you, free of charge, the secret of life, the happy life? Zounds!" His smile becoming broader, he released her hand and gave her a little push toward the door. "You may leave. The day nurse will be on duty soon. If you have any sense at all, you will try to remember some of the things I've said. And you'll try to use some of the wisdom I've given you free of charge!"

Annette smiled. "I'm to remember that all men sooner or later are subject to jealous rages and

"And you are to kiss him." He was silent for a long time. "You must be very beautiful. A beautiful woman always has a lovely voice, have you ever noticed? Yes, you must kiss him. Kisses, I'll have you know, have shattered kingdoms and won empires."

She rose, hearing the elevator doors opening down the hall, hearing the chatter of the day nurses coming on duty. She considered a moment, her lovely blue eyes very thoughtful. "I'll see him. There, I promise you that."

HE glanced quickly toward her, his expression odd. You said that so strangely, Annette. You said it as though you hadn't much hope."

"Did I?" She laughed opening the door. "Goodness, what a suspicious man you are."

"I am not . . ." he began to thunder, but she didn't remain to listen. Looking at her watch, she saw that she was going to be late and hurried down the hall into the large nurses' office. Usually, she spent a full hour there at the end of each night, talking to the other nurses, getting caught up on the latest news, the latest gossip. But this morning she didn't linger. She wrote her general report quickly, then sprang from the chair and went to the door. "I'll be back, Miss Phillips. You might save some coffee for me."

"Back?" Miss Phillips stared at her rosy face, then smiled. "Well it looks as though you've made your decision at last."

"It's love. Whether you or anyone approves or not; it's love."

"Who said anything about disapproving?" Lanky Miss Phillips shrugged. "Personally, I think a girl of twenty-one should marry and settle down. Leave the nursing to old people like me."

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ROMANTIC SECRETS

Annette hurried downstairs, remembering, as she ran, many, many things. Love! To think that it had taken her all this while to learn what real love was! Mr. Greenstreet had been right when he said that you gained as you lost, that even in quarrels with your boy friend you could find something worth knowing. Her eyes sparkling, at peace at last after a whole month of doubt, of utter misery, she opened the door of the Interns' Lounge and stepped inside. "Joe? Joe, are you here?"

HE came out through the library door, a thick book open in his hands. His dark eyes went to her face, and he smiled. "I was wondering if you'd be here this morning. You look lovely."

"Do I?" She shook her head finding it strange that his opinion of her beauty didn't matter. "Joe, I have something to tell you."

He snapped the book shut. "Something to the effect that kisses don't always tell the truth, something about hearts being confused, not really knowing what they feel?" He laughed, but there was no rancor in the laughter. "Well, why are you looking so solemn, so unhappy? In a way we've been quarreling since the first time we met. Isn't it better to know the truth than to have the truth made painfully clear to you after you've married the wrong girl?"

She rushed to him, little tears welling to her eyes. "I tried, Joe, believe me — I tried. But he came along, and suddenly I knew the truth at last. Joe, it isn't as sudden as you think. I've been nursing him for a whole month. In the night, when he couldn't sleep, we have sat together and talked. Joe, he's such a wonderful man. It must have been a horrible blow when he came out of that accident blind. But never once has he felt sorry for himself. Always, always, he saw the brighter side of the picture. I—I—"

"Sure," he shrugged. "It happens like that, and you can do nothing about it. You love, or you don't love—it's as simple as that. But . . ."

She stiffened as a shadow passed across his face. "Don't say it, Joe. Don't you dare say it will be hard living with a blind man. He—he isn't blind! He knows the world and he loves the world, and he knows people and he loves people. So he hasn't lost the world

or people just because he can't see them. And—and he has so much to give. He—"

"Sure," he said again. "But how are you going to make him see that. Listen, if there's anything I can do, you let me know."

"Joe!" She was so pleased with him that she wanted to hug him.

He laughed. "Annette, just because we don't love one another doesn't mean that we can't be friends, does it?"

"Joe, you—you're invited to the wedding!"

He kissed her cheek, laughing. "If there is a wedding. And for your sake, I hope there is."

Her eyes sparkled with laughter, with the joy of love, with the wonderful joy of love found at last. "There will be. You see, I know now the big secret of life."

Her heart pounding, she flew up the stairs and dashed into the Nurses' Office. There she picked up the tray of coffee and eggs; Miss Phillips had set aside for her and carried it into the room. She set the tray down on the bedstand, smiling, expectant . . .

"Annette?" He shook his head. Annette, you surely haven't had another scrap with him?"

"I'm being married, Mr. Greenstreet."

He blanched, then laughed forcefully. "Wonderful, wonderful."

"I think it is. Just imagine; now I won't have to read books about history. All I'll have to do is ask my wonderful husband and . . ."

"Annette!"

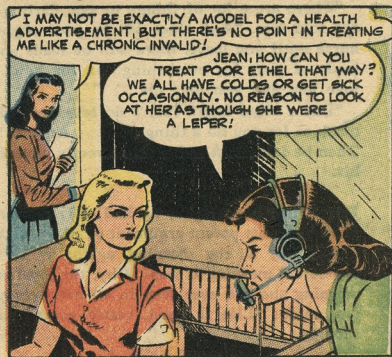
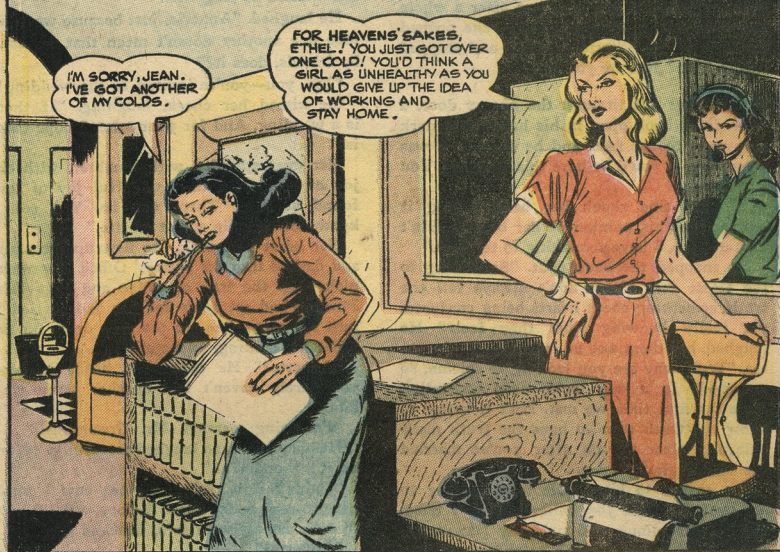
"There are a lot of things to say, darling," she told him. "And since I'll be your night-nurse until you leave, there will be loads and loads of time for everything. As for now, I love you and you love me . . ."

"But a blind man! Yes, I do love you, too much to let you do a thing like . . . Annette!" Then he fell silent as her lips sweetly covered his.

HE had been right; he had! Kisses were the most potent argument of all. Annette looked out at the morning again. What a wonderful morning it was! Why, the loveliest morning she had ever seen in all her twenty-one years! "Life is good, really good," she thought.

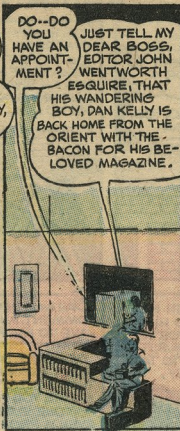
THE END

MEMORY'S SOUVENIR

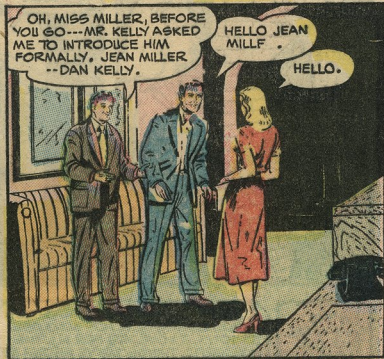


ROMANTIC SECRETS

I DIDN'T ANSWER PEGGY AND SHE WENT BACK TO HER WORK. I HAD ALWAYS CONSIDERED ILLNESS A SIGN OF WEAKNESS AND, WHEN ANYONE TRIED TO TELL ME I WAS WRONG, I PREFERRED TO BELIEVE THEY WERE ONLY JEALOUS OF MY OWN PERFECT HEALTH. THEN, A FEW MOMENTS LATER, SOMEONE STOPPED AT MY DESK, AND I LOOKED UP INTO THE STRONG, TANNED FACE OF THE HANDSOMEST MAN I HAD EVER SEEN ...



I WATCHED HIM LEAVE, THRILLING TO THE BROAD, MUSCULAR SHOULDERS!



ROMANTIC SECRETS

WE SAW EACH OTHER OFTEN IN THE TWO WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED OUR FIRST WONDERFUL EVENING TOGETHER. AND I KNEW HE WAS THE ONE I HAD ALWAYS WAITED FOR. AND THEN, ONE NIGHT--

THIS IS THE TIME I HATE, DARLING-- HAVING TO SAY GOOD NIGHT TO YOU, IF ONLY FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

I DO, TOO, DAN.



OH, HONEY---ABOUT TOMORROW NIGHT, I'D LIKE YOU TO VISIT AN OLD PROFESSOR OF MINE WITH ME. HE'S AN INVALID NOW, AND VISITORS MEAN A LOT TO HIM.

INVALID---AND HE'S A COLLEGE PROFESSOR? I--I'D RATHER NOT GO ALONG, DAN. CAN'T YOU MANAGE THE VISIT ALONE? I'LL SEE YOU ON FRIDAY.



JEAN---YOU ACT AS THOUGH HIS BEING AN INVALID MAKES HIM SOMETHING INFERIOR. YOU'VE SPOKEN LIKE THIS BEFORE, BUT IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR ME TO TAKE YOU SERIOUSLY.



DAN WAS DEEPLY UPSET BY MY COMMENT, AND I KNEW I WOULD HAVE TO PACIFY HIM QUICKLY, SO--

I'M SORRY, DARLING, I DIDN'T MEAN IT. IT'S JUST THAT I DON'T WANT TO SHARE YOU WITH ANYONE ELSE-- EVEN A PROFESSOR.

YOU'RE A BEWITCHING LITTLE MINX-- AND I WANT TO BELIEVE YOU--



--BECAUSE I LOVE YOU, DARLING--VERY MUCH.

AND I LOVE YOU, DAN.



ON THE DAYS AFTER THAT, OUR LOVE BLOSSOMED, WITH ITS PROMISE OF THE FUTURE. WE BOTH LOVED THE OUTDOORS, AND DAN OPENED MANY OF HIS SECRETS TO ME...

I NEVER DREAMED THERE WAS SUCH A WILD, BEAUTIFUL PLACE SO CLOSE TO TOWN. I LOVE YOU FOR ALL THE WONDERFUL THINGS YOU'VE SHOWN ME, DAN.

IS THAT THE ONLY...? WATCH YOUR LINE, JEAN-- YOU'VE GOT A STRIKE!

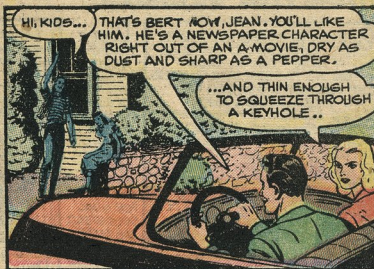


OH, THANK GOODNESS YOU CAUGHT ME, DAN!



ROMANTIC SECRETS

AND SO THE DAYS WENT--- THEN BERT OPPER, A NEWSPAPERMAN FRIEND OF DAN'S, STOPPED OVER IN TOWN, AND DAN MADE A DATE WITH HIM TO CLIMB MT. GREEN WITH US. WE MADE IT A FOUR-SOME BY PAIRING PEGGY OFF WITH BERT. WE CALLED FOR HIM AND PEGGY AT HER HOME---



HI, KIDS...

THAT'S BERT NOW, JEAN. YOU'LL LIKE HIM. HE'S A NEWSPAPER CHARACTER RIGHT OUT OF AN A-MOVIE, DRY AS DUST AND SHARP AS A PEPPER.

...AND THIN ENOUGH TO SQUEEZE THROUGH A KEYHOLE..

HELLO, YOU CHARACTERS! JEAN, MEET THE MOST WONDERFUL GUY IN THE WORLD, BERT OPPER.

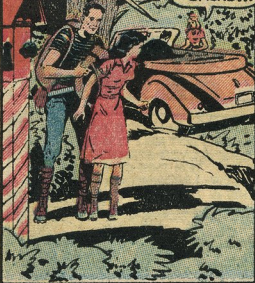
UH---HELLO, BERT.



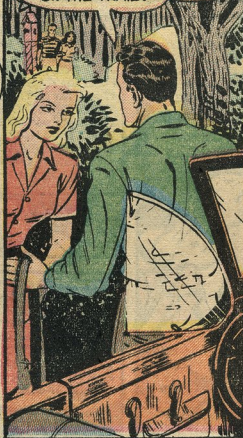
ON THE LONG DRIVE TO MT. GREEN, I HARDLY EXCHANGED TWO WORDS WITH BERT OPPER. DAN NOTICED IT, AND WHEN WE ARRIVED---

WHAT'S UP, JEAN? YOU'RE BARELY SPOKEN TO BERT. IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?

NO, DAN! IT'S JUST THAT BERT'S SO SKINNY AND WEAK-LOOKING THAT I DOUBT IF HE'LL MAKE THE CLIMB. WE'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO CARRY HIM DOWN ON OUR BACKS...



I KNOW YOU'RE A PERFECT SPECIMEN OF HEALTH, BUT DON'T BE SURPRISED IF SKINNY, WEAK-LOOKING BERT MAKES YOU HOLLER "UNCLE" ON THE TRAIL.



DAN'S DEFENSE OF HIS OBVIOUSLY INFERIOR FRIEND INFURIATED ME AND MADE ME DETERMINE TO SET A PACE ON THE TRAIL THAT WOULD LEAVE BERT PANTING, NONE OF THIS SHOWED ON MY FACE OR IN MY VOICE AS WE JOINED THE OTHERS.

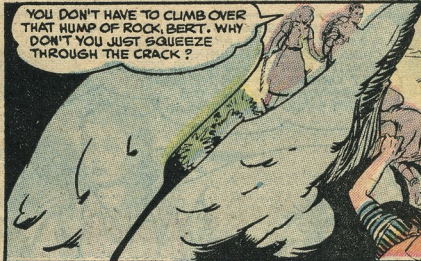
JEAN'S GOING TO SET THE PACE FOR US.

YES, AND YOU'D BETTER PULL IN YOUR BELTS. THERE'S A TOUGH CLIMB AHEAD.



THOUGH THERE WERE FOUR OF US IN THE PARTY, ONLY ONE WAS IMPORTANT TO ME ON THAT CLIMB, AND I TO HIM---BERT OPPER. HE HAD SENSED THAT I WAS OUT TO SHOW HIM UP---

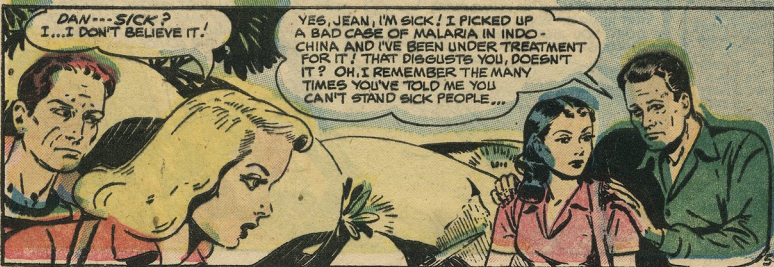
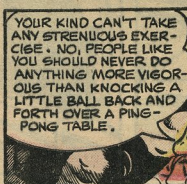
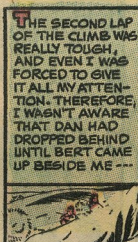
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CLIMB OVER THAT HUMP OF ROCK, BERT. WHY DON'T YOU JUST SQUEEZE THROUGH THE CRACK?



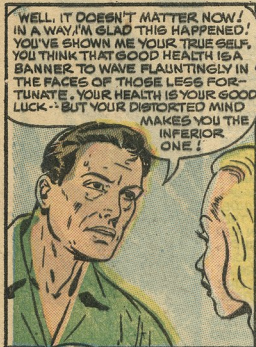
I'LL JUST IGNORE THE CRACK THIS TIME, JEAN, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. BUT THANKS FOR THE ADVICE.



ROMANTIC SECRETS



ROMANTIC SECRETS



WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW! IN A WAY, I'M GLAD THIS HAPPENED! YOU'VE SHOWN ME YOUR TRUE SELF. YOU THINK THAT GOOD HEALTH IS A BANNER TO WAVE FLAUNTINGLY IN THE FACES OF THOSE LESS FORTUNATE. YOUR HEALTH IS YOUR GOOD LUCK-- BUT YOUR DISTORTED MIND MAKES YOU THE INFERIOR ONE!

I STOOD THERE STUNNED, LISTENING TO DAN'S ANGRY VOICE WHILE THE WORLD WE HAD BUILT BETWEEN US TUMBLED DOWN AROUND ME.

MY HEART WAS IN TUMULT AS A NUMBING BLOW OF DOUBT BEAT AGAINST ITS WALLS.

THEN A JAGGED BOLT OF LIGHTNING STREAKING ACROSS THE SKY, AND A CRASH OF THUNDER, SAVED ME FROM FURTHER THOUGHT---



O'HHHHH... WHAT LUCK A CABIN! SHELTER!

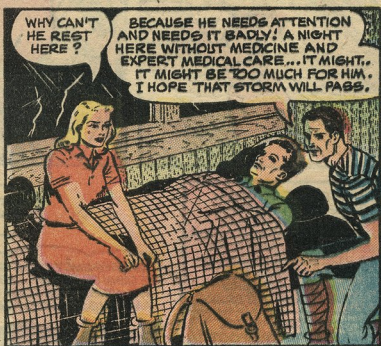
COME ON, WE'VE GOT TO TAKE COVER IN THE CABIN, DAN, CAN'T BE EXPOSED TO RAIN IN HIS CONDITION.



WE MADE THE CABIN JUST AS THE STORM BROKE SAVAGELY AROUND US--

IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE MAROONED FOR THE NIGHT.

WE CAN'T BE! WE'VE GOT TO GET DAN BACK TO TOWN.



WHY CAN'T HE REST HERE?

BECAUSE HE NEEDS ATTENTION AND NEEDS IT BADLY! A NIGHT HERE WITHOUT MEDICINE AND EXPERT MEDICAL CARE... IT MIGHT. IT MIGHT BE TOO MUCH FOR HIM. I HOPE THAT STORM WILL PASS.



IT'S NO USE WAITING ANY LONGER. I'LL HAVE TO TRY AND MAKE IT TO THE PHONE-BOX AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN. DAN'S GOT TO HAVE A DOCTOR.

YOU'D... NEVER... MAKE IT... IN THIS... STORM. WAIT... MAYBE IT'LL BE OVER BY... MIDNIGHT.

I LOOKED AT DAN'S PERSPIRATION-DRENCHED FACE, SO WHITE AND DRAWN, AND THE GLAZED-OVER HAZEL EYES THAT WERE NORMALLY SO BRIGHT AND LAUGHTER-FILLED, AND FELT A SUDDEN SURGE OF LOATHING FOR MYSELF...



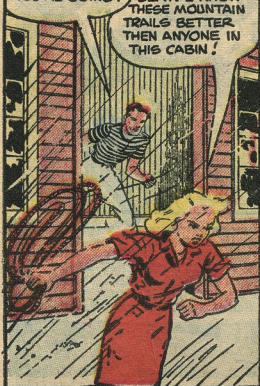
I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS. MY INSISTENCE ON CONTINUING THE CLIMB BROUGHT ON DAN'S ATTACK. YES, AND DELAYED US LONG ENOUGH TO BE CAUGHT BY THE STORM. IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO DAN, I'LL BE TO BLAME.

ROMANTIC SECRETS

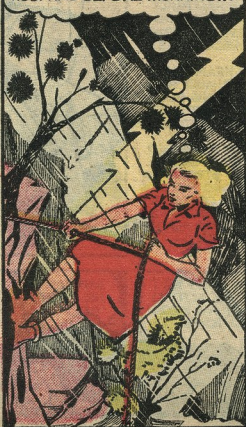
I KNEW THEN WHAT HAD TO BE DONE; KNEW TOO, THAT IT WASN'T UP TO BERT, BUT ME. ONCE THE DECISION WAS MADE, I HESITATED NO LONGER. WITHOUT A WORD, I OPENED THE CABIN DOOR---

JEAN! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?

FOR HELP! DON'T TRY TO STOP ME, BERT. I KNOW THESE MOUNTAIN TRAILS BETTER THAN ANYONE IN THIS CABIN!



IT'S NEARLY TEN O'CLOCK, BUT WITH LUCK I SHOULD REACH THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN BEFORE MIDNIGHT. THAT MEANS A RESCUE PARTY CAN GET DAN DOWN AND TO THE HOSPITAL BEFORE MORNING...

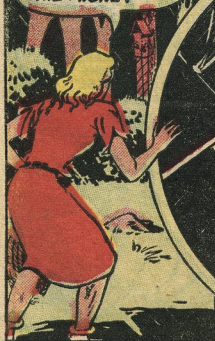


SLEEPING ON THE TRAIL MY CLOTHES TORN TO RIBBONS BY THE CLUTCHING ROCKS, AND HALF-BLINDED BY THE RAIN AND WIND WHICH TORE AT ME LIKE NATURE ITSELF GONE MAD, I PRESSED ON--- DRIVEN BY THOUGHTS OF DAN, HELPLESS IN THE STORM-BOUND CABIN---



TIME BECAME NOTHING, AND THE NIGHT, THE TRAIL AND THE STORM ITSELF, DETACHED THEMSELVES FROM REALITY AND BECAME PART OF A HIDEOUS NIGHTMARE OF DISTORTED SHAPES AND SOUNDS. THEN SUDDENLY--- LOOKING OUT OF THE DARKNESS---

THE PHONE! I MADE IT TO THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN! IT'S THE PHONE!



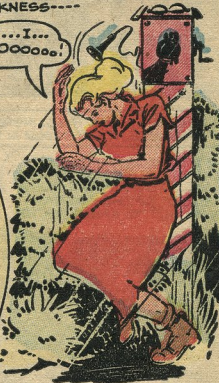
STATE POLICE BARRACKS.

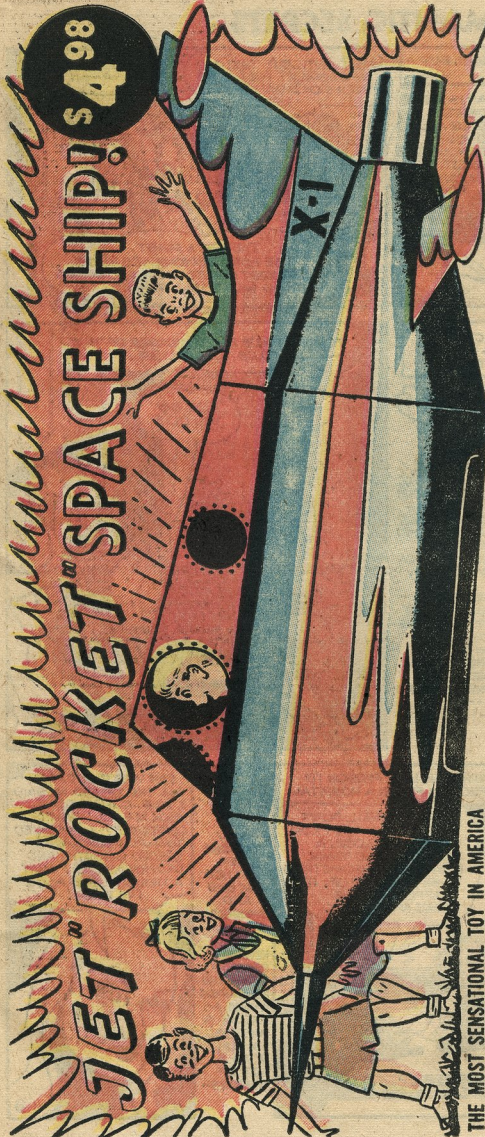
EMERGENCY CASE AT THE CABIN ON TOP OF...MT. GREEN. WE NEED A RESCUE CREW AND AMBULANCE. HURRY!



I WAS FEELING QUEER AS I HUNG UP THE RECEIVER. THE POST SEEMED TO WAVER, AND AS I GRABBED IT FOR SUPPORT, MY KNEES BUCKLED AND I SLID INTO DARKNESS----

I...I... OOOooooo!





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ROMANTIC SECRETS

HOW LONG I WAS UNCONCIOUS I DON'T KNOW, BUT WHEN I OPENED MY EYES AGAIN...

WHERE...WHERE AM I?
DAN! WHERE IS DAN?

YOUR YOUNG MAN IS RIGHT HERE IN THE HOSPITAL AND IS GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT, THANKS TO YOU, YOUNG LADY. IT'S YOU WE'VE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT. YOU ALMOST DIED FROM OVER-EXPOSURE.



ME? BUT...BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! I'VE NEVER BEEN SICK A DAY IN MY LIFE!

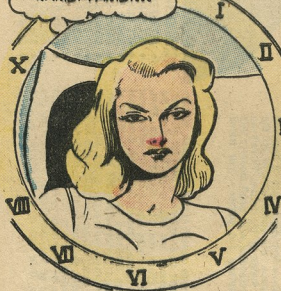
YOU'VE BEEN HERE A WEEK!



THERE'S A FIRST TIME FOR EVERYONE, YOU KNOW. JUST REST QUIETLY NOW, AND EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT!

I LAY THERE FOR HOURS AFTER THE DOCTOR HAD LEFT ME, HATING MYSELF FOR BEING SICK, DESPISING THE WEAKNESS THAT HAD LEFT ME THIS WAY...

I'M THE GAL THAT PRIDED HERSELF ON NEVER HAVING HAD A DAY OF ILLNESS, THE GAL WHO DESPISED SUCH WEAKNESS IN OTHERS. AND NOW, LOOK AT ME! AS HELPLESS IN THIS BED AS ANY NANNY-PAMBY...



FOR DAYS I LAY LIKE THAT, SEEING NO ONE BUT THE DOCTOR, THE NURSE THAT ATTENDED ME, AND OCCASIONALLY MY MOTHER.

THEN AS I BEGAN TO GET BETTER, I WAS WHEELED ONTO THE SUNDECK WITH THE OTHER CONVALESCENTS

FOLKS, HERE'S A NEW MEMBER OF THE CLUB, MISS MILLER.

HI--

HOW DO YOU DO?



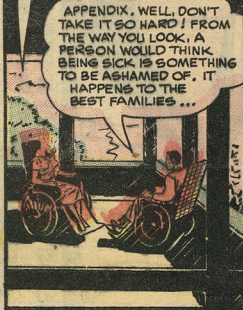
SAY, I THINK I KNOW YOU. AT LEAST I'VE SEEN YOU SOMEWHERE...WAIT A MINUTE! YOU'RE BEN GLISSON, THE ALL-AMERICAN HALF-BACK! I'VE SEEN YOU PLAY FOOTBALL DOZENS OF TIMES!

THAT'S RIGHT, AND AS SOON AS I GET SHED OF THIS WHEEL-CHAIR, I'LL BE BACK IN THERE PLAYING!



YOU'RE THE LAST PERSON I'D EXPECT TO FIND IN A HOSPITAL.

APPENDIX, WELL, DON'T TAKE IT SO HARD! FROM THE WAY YOU LOOK, A PERSON WOULD THINK BEING SICK IS SOMETHING TO BE ASHAMED OF. IT HAPPENS TO THE BEST FAMILIES...

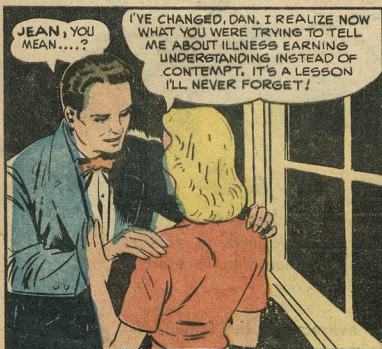


I DIDN'T ANSWER HIM. I WAS TOO BUSY THINKING OVER WHAT HE'D JUST SAID AND STRUGGLING WITH A SUDDEN NEW PERSPECTIVE. DURING THE FOLLOWING WEEKS, AS I RECOVERED, I DID A LOT OF THINKING--

DAN WAS RIGHT! I'M ALL THE THINGS HE SAID I WAS. BLIND, STUPID, SICK IN SOUL! WHAT CONTEMPT I DISPLAYED TOWARD PEOPLE WHO NEEDED SYMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING! WHAT A THOUGHTLESS FOOL I'VE BEEN!



ROMANTIC SECRETS



QUIZ

S SCORE YOURSELF AS FOLLOWS—
5 CORRECT, EXCELLENT. 4 CORRECT, VERY GOOD. 3 CORRECT, GOOD. 2 CORRECT, FAIR. 1 CORRECT, POOR.

1 THE FIRST STEAM LOCOMOTIVE WAS USED IN 1831.

☐ True ☐ False



2 THE POET, ROBERT BURNS, DIED ON JULY 21, 1796.

☐ True ☐ False



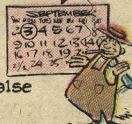
3 THE INTENSITY OF A GALE RATES BETWEEN A HEAVY BREEZE AND A HURRICANE.

☐ True ☐ False



4 LABOR DAY TAKES PLACE ON THE FIRST MONDAY IN SEPTEMBER.

☐ True ☐ False



5 THANKSGIVING DAY WAS FIRST CELEBRATED AS A HOLIDAY IN 1863.

☐ True ☐ False



ANSWERS: 1. TRUE. 2. TRUE. 3. TRUE. 4. TRUE. 5. TRUE.

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